

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 were pending. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled herein. Thus, claims 3-11 are now pending. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 which accompanied the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on March 19, 2004.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Grace, U.S. Patent No. 5,357,191. Claim 1 has been canceled herein rendering the rejection moot.

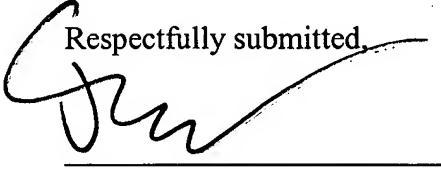
Claims 2 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Grace in view of Woodworth, U.S. Patent No. 3,826,977. Claim 2 has been canceled herein and claims 9-11 are amended to depend from claim 3 which is allowable. Therefore the rejection is rendered moot.

The indication of allowability with regard to claims 3-8 is noted with appreciation. Accordingly, claims 3, 5 and 6 have been rewritten herein to include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore claims 3-8 are allowable. Claims 9 and 10, as noted, have been amended to depend from claim 3. Thus, claims 9-11 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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